

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

In The Claims:

1. (Original) A conductive masterbatch comprising a polyamide and conductive carbon black, said conductive carbon black being present in the form of at least one agglomerated particle having a major axis of 20 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , wherein the number of said at least one agglomerated particle is 1 to 100 as observed under an optical microscope with respect to a contiguous area of 3  $\text{mm}^2$ .
2. (Original) The conductive masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the number of said at least one agglomerated particle is 1 to 50.
3. (Original) The conductive masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the number of said at least one agglomerated particle is 2 to 40.
4. (Original) The conductive masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the number of said at least one agglomerated particle is 2 to 30.
5. (Original) The conductive masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the conductive carbon black has a dibutyl phthalate

(DBP) oil absorption of at least 250 ml per 100 g of the carbon black.

6. (Original) The conductive masterbatch according to claim 1, which is in the form of pellets.

7. (Currently Amended) The conductive masterbatch according to claim 6, wherein the surface roughness of each of the pellets is in the range of from 0.3 to 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$  in terms of an average value of the surface roughness (Ra) values as measured by a surface roughness gauge with respect to ~~a plurality of~~ ten different surface portions of each of the pellets.

8. (Original) The conductive masterbatch according to claim 6, wherein the surface roughness of each of the pellets is in the range of from 0.4 to 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

9. (Original) The conductive masterbatch according to claim 6, wherein each of the pellets has a cylindrical shape, and has a diameter of from 1.5 to 3.5 mm and a length of from 2.0 to 3.5 mm.

10. (Original) The conductive masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the conductive carbon black is in the

range of from 5 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of the masterbatch.

11. (Original) The conductive masterbatch according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the conductive carbon black is in the range of from 6 to 10% by weight, based on the weight of the masterbatch.

12. (Original) A conductive resin composition comprising a polyamide, a polyphenylene ether and conductive carbon black, which is produced by melt-kneading the conductive masterbatch of claim 1 with the polyphenylene ether and optionally an additional amount of a polyamide.

13. (Original) The conductive resin composition according to claim 12, wherein the amount of the conductive carbon black is in the range of from 0.2 to 5 parts by weight, relative to 100 parts by weight of the total of the components of the conductive resin composition excluding the conductive carbon black.

14. (Original) The conductive resin composition according to claim 12, which is for use in the production of an automobile outer panel.

15. (Original) A method for producing a conductive resin composition comprising a polyamide, a polyphenylene ether and conductive carbon black, which comprises the following steps:

(1) providing a conductive masterbatch comprising a polyamide and conductive carbon black, said conductive carbon black being present in the form of at least one agglomerated particle having a major axis of 20 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , and

(2) adding said conductive masterbatch to a molten polyphenylene ether.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein, in the step (2), an additional amount of polyamide is added to the molten polyphenylene ether, simultaneously with the addition of the conductive masterbatch.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 15 or 16, wherein said conductive masterbatch provided in step (1) is the masterbatch of claim 1.